Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /060 W ------054099 051004Z /13

R 050854Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 4177

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EEC, XF, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO EEC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. FRG AMBASSADOR TOLD US JULY 3 THAT EEC AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN JOINTLY CONVOKED TO MEET WITH DEPFONMIN KHANI PREVIOUS DAY. KHANI HAD BEGUN BY THANKING THEM FOR STATEMENT WHICH SYRIA CONSIDERED A POSITIVE AND TIMELY STEP. WHILE IT DID NOT MEET ALL SYRIAN CONCERNS, SARG NEVERTHELESS WELCOMED THE STATEMENT. KHANI WENT ON TO REVIEW POSITIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST BLOC AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHICH HE POINTED OUT SHOWED DEEPER APPRECIATION OF ARAB POSITION. HE URGED EEG GOVERNMENTS TO RESIST TEMPTATION TO SIT BACK AND RELAX, HAVING ISSUED STATEMENT, BUT INSTEAD TO REMAIN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SEARCH FOR ME SETTLEMENT.

2. FRG AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRIOR TO EUROPEAN COUNCIL

MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS HAD INDIVIDUALLY CALLED IN EACH EEC AMBASSADOR TO SUPPORT ISSUANCE OF NEW ME STATEMENT BY COUNCIL.

3. KHANI CONFIRMED TO CHARGE JULY 4 THAT SYRIANS WERE PLEASED WITH ISSUANCE OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN STATEMENTS AND THOUGHT THAT TIMING, IN ADVANCE OF PRIMIN BEGIN'S U.S. VISIT, WOULD INCREASE CHANCES FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME OF CARTER-BEGIN TALKS. SYRIA HAD PROBLEMS WITH PARTS OF BOTH STATEMENTS, HE ADDED, BUT THESE COULD BE PASSED OVER FOR NOW. IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION REGARDING LE MONDE'S INTERPRETATION THAT JUNE 27 STATEMENT MEANT US NOW FAVORED TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, CHARGE REPLIED THIS WAS NOT CORRECT. FULLEST STATEMENT OF US VIEWS REMAINED VP MONDALE'S JUNE 17 SPEECH. PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: SYRIAN REACTION TO EEC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

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